

1080. no. 40
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A CONGRATULATORY
EPISTLE
FROM A
REFORMED RAKE,

TO
JOHN F-----G, Esq;

Upon the New Scheme of reclaiming

PROSTITUTES.



Minimūque libidine peccant.

JUV.

1758

L O N D O N:

Printed for G. BURNET, at Temple-Bar.

[Price One Shilling.]

EXHIBITION
OF THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

FROM A
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JOHN W. T. G. M.

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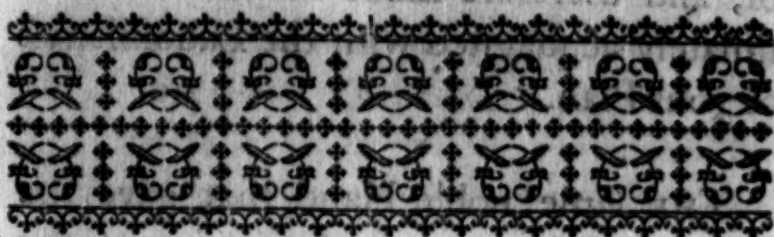
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JULY

LOW D. M.

Printed for G. H. B. at 1/10/10
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A Congratulatory

EPISTLE, &c.

S I R,

* * * * * T was with inexpressible Satis-
 * I * faction, I learnt there was a
 * * * Plan in Agitation, which owed
 * * * its Invention to your fruitful
 Imagination, for making Provision for
 penitent Prostitutes. As there is, per-
 haps, no Class of People more prejudicial
 to Society than this, so are there many
 Instances of mere Necessity, and the ap-
 parent Impossibility of moving in any other
 Sphere, being the sole Motives for these
 unfortunate Women continuing in it. This
 my own Experience has convinced me

A 2

of,

of, and therefore made me the more intimately acquainted with the Laudibleness of your Plan.

THE same noble Hand that gave the first Benefaction to the Institution of the *Foundling Hospital*, was the first extended to promote this; and there is Reason to believe, by the many generous Imitations, that this Charity will be as successfully established as that truly useful one, for the Preservation of Infants, guilty of no other Crime than that of *breathing at their Birth*.

BUT there are few Institutions, however well intended, and however productive of Advantages to Society, that are not attended with some Circumstances, that may, upon mature Examination, either incline the judicious Reasoner to discard the Project, or make such Reformation in it, as may give it not only a new Face, but almost a novelty of Form.

IT is the Business of every Member of the Community, upon such an Occasion, to point out what may, upon a near Inspection,

spection, appear to be Defects, and offer his Sentiments in a candid manner for the Approbation of the Public. And as you, Sir, are so justly entitled to a more immediate Application, I shall make no Apology for the following epistolary Remarks upon the Plan, and the manner hitherto pursued in executing it.

THOUGH it is esteemed a just Observation, that *public Benefits* are generally rendered *private Emoluments*; I cannot upon this Occasion suppose it to have the least Force; the public Spiritedness of all the Gentlemen concerned in this Undertaking, and more particularly Yourself, are sufficient Evidences that nothing but the general Good is intended by this Project. Therefore I may, without the least Suspicion of Slander, be allowed to deliver my Sentiments in the freest manner upon this Charity; which, like all others, promises such Benefits to us all, and particularly the unfortunate Part of the female Sex, that it is with the greatest Reluctance I am, at length, persuaded to make such Remarks upon it, which, though they may appear critically

critically just, may at the same Time appear censorious. Nothing but the Necessity of greatly changing the *executive* Part of this Plan could have induced me to render these Sentiments public, upon so popular, and so well received a Project.

It was with the utmost Astonishment, Sir, I read in your "Introduction to the " Plan for preserving young Girls," that the *very-low-infamous Bawdy-Houses* only, (I suppose) as you mention no others, this Project is meant to exterminate.

It is easy to understand what you mean by *low*, and *very-low* Bawdy-Houses—but the Signification of *Bawdy-Houses*, with the distinguishing Epithet *infamous* before them, has not only puzzled me, but many of my Acquaintance to suggest.

THAT all Bawdy-Houses are infamous, to me is very evident; and that whether you pay Six Shillings for a Bottle of *imaginary* Hock, or Three-pence for a Quarter of Gin—there is not so much Distinction in the Expence, as in the Imposition;

sition; and that nothing magnifies the Infamy of the Place, more than its exorbitancy, *except it be a Connivance at it.*

As this certainly is the Case, I imagine, Sir, you were mistaken, in pointing out so particularly “very-low Bawdy-Houses,” as being the only *infamous ones*, since it must plainly appear to every unprejudiced Person, that the *Top*, or what some may call *genteel Bawdy-Houses*, are as much more infamous, as they are imposing. With respect to the Scenes of *Lewdness* there exhibited; very little Acquaintance with the Manner of *carrying on Business* in those Places must evince, that the low Bawdy-Houses are Receptacles for such, as neither by Food or pampering, are excited to have Recourse to unnatural Stimulatives for *forced Indulgence*: And that the latter are frequented for a Constancy by few others than debilitated Rakes, whose Powers forsake them before their Passions, which prompt the impotent-Letchers to the most nauseating, and unnatural Means of satisfying their imbecillious Lust.

LET

LET us now consider whether the fatal Consequences that result to Society from these Stews, are greater or lesser in Proportion to their *Gentility*: And with this View I shall state the Case, with as much Impartiality, as any unprejudiced Person can, between Ladies of Pleasure and absolute Bunters. It may be necessary to premise the various Gradations of Whores in this Metropolis, which I believe will stand thus,

Women of Fashion, who intrigue.

Demi-Reps.

Good-natured Girls.

Kept Mistresses.

Ladies of Pleasure.

Whores.

Park-Walkers.

Street-Walkers.

Bunters.

Bulk-mongers.

As the first Four of this List, are entirely excluded from the present Argument (though I shall make some Enquiry after them presently) we must consider whether

whether *Ladies of Pleasure* and *Whores* (to speak *technically*) or *Park-walkers*, *Street-walkers*, *Bunters*, and *Bulk-mongers*, are the greatest Pest to Society. The first comprehend those in continual Waiting (in the House or at the Door) of *genteel Brothels*; the other compose the Furniture of (what you call) *low-infamous Barwy-bouses*.

If low mean Whores are a Bane to Society, by debauching the Morals, as well as Bodies, of *Apprentices*, and Lads scarce come to the Age of *Puberty*: If they frequently infect them with venereal Complaints, which almost as often terminate in as fatal Consequences: If they sometimes urge these Youths to unwarrantable Practices for supporting their Extravagance in—*Gin*: Do not those in a more dazzling Situation produce still worse Consequences, by as much as they are above the others?—Are not Youths of good Family and Fortune seduced by these shining Harlots, who more frequently than their Inferiors in Rank, propagate

gate the Species of an inveterate *Clap*, or a *Sound-pox*?

BUNTERS are seldom used as *Women*—*Top-whores*, as *Fallen-angels*, come nearer to the Sex. If *Street-walkers* and *Bulk-mongers* sometimes take a Youth's own Handkerchief, instead of Three-half-pence, (half-wet-half-dry) for a *Manual-abortion*—Do not *Ladies of Pleasure* frequently excite their *Culls*, when Finances fail, to take an airing (*solus*) upon *Hounslow-Heath*?

THESE by Dint of seeing *Plays* in the *Flesh-market*, hearing *Rakes*, and their own Fraternity discourse, and sometimes (*if the can*) by reading a *Bawdy-novel*, or *Romance*, attain a superior Cunning, to any Thing the low Wretches can arrive at. This to a Woman, who is not absolutely an Ideot, if she has an agreeable Person, fails not to be a great Auxiliary to Seduction. Add to this their superior *external* Cleanliness (though foul enough in Fact) and the Privacy that may be

be used at an Interview, which often excite, not only determined Rakes, but (in other Respects) sedate Men, who have Wives and Families, and who frequently transplant a venereal Complaint, from the Harlot's to the Marriage-Bed, and to their Posterity.

Now let any really disinterested Man weigh these Facts, thrown together without any Parade of Argument, and such others as he may suggest upon the Occasion, and let him determine, which appear to be the greatest Bane to Society, or, in other Words, the most productive of ill Consequences, low Bunters and Street-Walkers, or *Ladies of Pleasure*, who by their Appearance only, claim a superior Rank.

If he should still be doubtful how to decide, let him consider — “ The Force “ of the Example.” There is a Lust in Woman, that operates more strongly than all her libidinous Passions; to gratify which she sticks at nothing. — Fame — Health—Content, are easily sacrificed to

it. *Fanny M—y* and *Lucy C—r*, have made more Whores than all the Rakes in *England*. A *Kept-Mistress*, that rides in her Chariot, debauches every vain Girl she meets — such is the Presumption of the Spectator, she imagines the same Means will procure her the same Grandeur.——A miserable *Street-walker*, who perhaps has not Rags enough to cover her Nakedness, more enforces *Chastity*—I had almost said *Virtue*—than all the moral Discourses, and even Sermons that ever were wrote or preached.

I apprehend, Sir, you are by this time convinced of your Slip of the Pen, with respect to branding *Low-bawdy-houses* only, with the Name of Infamous: And I should take no further Notice of a Mistake which any Man might be liable to, if the executive Part of the Plan, that has been hitherto enforced, did not corroborate this Error, and prove that its Continuance may chance to be of some Duration.

IN

IN the Account published in the *Public Advertiser*, of the Search that was made for Prostitutes, I find that it was limited to *Drury-lane*, *Hedge-lane*, and *St. Giles's*. I own if I had been a Peace-Officer upon that Occasion, I should have stept into the *Turk's-head*, or indeed, almost any other House in *Bow-street*, and have found more proper Objects of Correction, than those half-starved Wretches, rather a Disgust than Incitement to Incontinence.

BUT upon Reflection I am inclined to believe this *Overfight* is to be attributed to quite a different Cause ; for though a *very* few Years ago, when I indulged myself in the Follies and Vices of the Town, there were such Houses as Mrs. *Doug—s's*, Mrs. *Sh—ter's*, Mrs. *G—ld's*, &c. &c. &c. I apprehend these Houses are no longer kept open in the Purlieus of *Covent-Garden*, for the Convenience of incontinent Passengers. What other Reasons can be assigned for this double Neglect — first in Print, by not including these Houses, under

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der the Denomination of *infamous Bawdy-Houses* ; and then by passing them in the Search, though their Vicinity claimed the earliest Visit ?

You well know, Sir, that the common Cant of *trading* Justices has long prevailed, in owning that *Bawdy-houses* were certainly great Enormities, but the Difficulty lay in crushing them : That *Presentments* made against them were mere *dead Letters* in the Crown-office, inflicting no other Punishment than a Penalty of about *forty Shillings* : The Non-appearance of Prosecutors to carry on the *Presentment*, setting them at Liberty to transgress again with Impunity.

But since the Constables (even those of *Covent-Garden*) are obliged to make Oath there are no *Brothels* in their Parish ; and you, Sir, are authorised to search them and commit the Prostitutes, (supposing there to be any ;) I should be curious to know, what particular Act of Parliament exempts the *Bawdy-houses* in *Bow-street*, and in and about *Covent-Garden*, from the
like

like *Search*, or their Guests from the like *Confinement*. If you can *legally* take into Custody the Whores of *Hedge-lane*, *Dru-ry-lane*, and *St. Giles's*, I apprehend (but perhaps I may be mistaken) you may, with equal *Justice*, dispose of those next Door to you.

BUT, as I said before, the Mistake must lie on my Side, in imagining there to be any within the Purlicue of *St. Paul's*, *Covent-Garden*; as the Constables, who have the utmost *Detestation* of Perjury, so clearly demonstrate by their Oaths; and as it is highly *incredible* to imagine, that the most active Justice in *England* would let any such Houses remain under his very Nose.

YET such is the Force of Scandal, and such the Credit given to Report, that this sanctified Place (of old) is by many believed to be now the *Emporium* of *For-nication*, and even the most *nauseating impotent Lust*. Passing an Evening, a few Weeks ago, at a certain Tavern near *Covent-Garden*, the Wine operated so strongly

strongly upon the young Blood of some of my Companions, that they rung for the *Gentleman-porter*, and actually asked him if he could get them some Girls; to my great Surprize he pulled out a *List*, containing the Names of near *four Hundred*, alphabetically ranged, with an exact Account of their Persons, Age, Qualifications, and Places of Abode. To me, who had Philosophy and Resolution enough to remain a mere Spectator, this List was more entertaining than the real Objects of its Description, and I perused it with great Attention. Believe it who will, (for it is scarce credible) among these four Hundred Whores, near a Hundred were marked in the Margin as living in *Bow-street*, and the Courts adjacent; and upwards of half the rest, in about *Covent-Garden*.

A Blood in Company began to question *Bob*, concerning his Catalogue “What
 “ new Faces have you got, *Bob*?” — “Please
 “ your Honour, I’ve nothing very new,
 “ without ’tis *Nancy Wilson*—but she has
 “ just got hold of an *Oxford Scholar*
 “ worth

" worth sixteen thousand?—Where does
 " she live? Oh, in the Garden, Sir.—
 " What else have you got worth looking
 " at? Why an please you--there is *Jenny*
 " *Belfe*, and *Polly Martin*,—fresh out of
 " keeping in *Bow-Street*—There's *Nanny*
 " *Right*—no, I'm mistaken, she's just
 " down in a *Sal*. Have you nothing
 " new—not one Piece—What's become
 " of *Bet Legg*, and *Nancy Welch*?—Oh,
 " Sir, they're making Interest for the
 " *Lock*—very bad indeed—far gone—if
 " they don't succeed, they'll turn into
 " *Drury*, and so make sure of the *Refor-*
 " *matory*---they've been off my *List* these
 " six Weeks. Let's see your *List* (*reads*)
 " *Ann Gill*---aged 19---has been in Com-
 " pany two Years--*Bow-Street*. *Elizabeth*
 " *White*, down in a *Sal*; Ditto---*Mary*
 " *Green*, going into keeping, sees Company
 " till the End of the Week, ditto. Z---ds,
 " there's nothing but old Faces, that have
 " been upon the Town ever since the
 " Flood." " I shall have, Sir, next Week
 " two of the finest Girls in *England*, that
 " have not been debauched above a Fort-
 " night—Mrs. *D-gl--s* expects 'em in
 " Town

“ Town every Day from *Salisbury*, whither they have run from their Father.”

THUS, Sir, did this audacious Pimp harangue, and talk of *Covent-Garden* and *Bow-Street*, as if those Places were entirely over-run with Bawds and Whores—Spoke of Mrs. *D--gl-s*, Mrs *Sh-t-r*, Mrs. *N-ble*, Mrs. *G-ld*, &c. &c. as if they actually existed, and kept public—notorious nay (*almost*) infamous Bawdy-Houses within the Precincts of your Jurisdiction.

IF after all, these People and Places should actually be, and are allowed to subsist, can it be supposed that the Intent of the Plan of a *Reformatory*, will have all, if any Effect; since these Houses, though of *superior* Note to those of *Hedge-Lane*, and *St. Giles's*, will ever play their worn out and distempered Whores into the Hands of the lower Sort, from whence the *Reformatory* may be furnished with decrepid, rotten Objects---too far gone in Vice and Debauchery for Reformation---and too much distempered for cure; who can be of no other Use to Society, or themselves,

themselves, than to stand out as Beacons, to deter innocent Girls from splitting upon the same Rock? Or can the *Preservatory* fail being prejudiced by the continuance of these Houses, since it is the Allurements and Baits of the more elevated Bawds, (who frequently are employed by rich old Letchers, or abandoned Rakes) that seduce young Girls to quit the Paths of Chastity? It is not the poor Proprietor of a Gin or petty Chandler's Shop, or an Herb Stall, that can have any Influence over Girls, whose Vanity is more to be satisfied than their Lust. As these infernal Harpies cannot subsist without a Stock in Trade (*i. e.* a Succession of Girls) they must by their Seductions subvert, at least in a great measure, if not totally, the Plan of preserving young innocent Girls from Debauchery. So that if these *ill-Weeds* are not grubbed up by the Roots, to what End are these well-meant, though impracticable Plans--if they are not intended more for private Interest, than for public Emolument? They will answer no other Purpose, than to supply the Town with fresh Whores, and provide a House of

cure for the infected, 'till such Time as they regain Health, and are able to follow their Vocation.

I SHALL dwell no longer in this Place, upon the Necessity of exterminating not only low Bawdy-Houses, but those of superior Rank, whether in *Covent-Garden*, or elsewhere; since by this Time it must evidently appear to you, Sir, as well as the most cursory Reader, that the best Scheme that can be devised for preventing or reclaiming Prostitutes, must instead of tending to the public Advantage, be only an Imposition upon them, so long as these *elevated Pests* to Society are permitted to subsist.

HOWEVER amiable *Virtue* may appear, for her *own Sake*; and however certain it is that *Honesty* is its own *Reward*; as it is very difficult to persuade the profligate and unthinking Part of the World of these Axioms; so judicious Lawgivers and Magistrates, have ever held it necessary to punish Vice and recompence Virtue. How far, Sir, you have pursued this wise
Maxim,

Maxim, in the Publication of your Plan, and the executive Part thereof, I will not pretend to ascertain; but it is obvious to every Reader, that you have so little studied to recommend your Project to those whom it is meant for, that the very Preamble is enough to deter every Girl that has flown from *Labour*, and rather embraced Prostitution, Debauchery, and Disease, from indenturing herself for Seven Years to the greatest of Drudgeries—the Wash-Tub!

“ A *public Laundry*, intended to employ, breed up, and preserve the deserted Girls of the Poor of this Metropolis; and also to reform those Prostitutes, whom Necessity has drove into the Streets, and who are willing to return to Virtue, and obtain an honest Livelihood by *severe Industry*.”

Washing and *severe Industry*, then, are the Incentives to Chastity—By these Prostitution is to be defeated, and Whoredom exterminated. An Apprenticeship to Washing, and Hard-labour are the promised Rewards for Chastity.—*Fornication*

cation is punished with fine Cloaths, Good-Living and Indolence !

MAY we not expect to see the Streets and low *Bawdy-Houses* soon cleared of Prostitutes, all repairing in Shoals to your House, to voluntarily indenture themselves for Seven Years. What alas ! will the poor Batchelors then do to give vent to the calls of Nature ?—Must they have Recourse to unnatural Copulation, or must they make fresh Work for the *Reformatory*, by debauching every Girl they can ? A Scarcity of Whores, like all other Commodities, will enhance their Price, and there are but few Men, who can at present afford to pay the genteel ones. Perhaps you will answer, *let them marry*—but consider, Sir, every Man cannot afford it, and if he should without, it is in the End burthening the Parish with his Wife and Children, and ruining himself.

To be serious, there is no great Danger of a Dearth of Prostitutes in this Metropolis ; for even supposing the *Reformatory* to be filled in three Months, and that not
above

above one Third of them fly from *Soap-suds*—and *severe Industry*, before the Expiration of their Indenture (which by the bye would furnish a very *decent* supply of Whores) may we not reasonably conclude that half of those who *worked* their Time out, would be so weary of Labour, that they would again take to Fornication for a Support? This will not appear exaggerated, when it is considered, that at least one half of the Prostitutes in this Metropolis, were originally Servant Maids—who despising their Station, and being vain enough to imagine they had Charms to captivate, deserted their Calling, and from *Mop-squeezers*. were promoted to *Whores*. It would be in this Case necessary to provide that no *Magdalen* should be *penitent* above once, without it was in another Name. This Rule is observed at the *Lock*, where, though some Whores have been salivated half a Dozen or more Times, they cannot be laid down twice under the same Denomination.

As we may expect, if the Plan as you have projected it, should be carried into
Execution

Execution, that Fornication and Debauchery will not be suppressed but diverted into a more *polite Channel*; the low, infamous Bawdy-houses being the *Magdalen-Magazine*——the *genteel famous ones connived at*——would it not be proper to settle the *Rates* of Whores, that single Men of all Conditions might be *properly served*, and render them liable to be *return'd* to some Office in case they demanded more than their *Fare*? As Mess. *Der-y* and *H—*s might be considerably prejudiced by such a Regulation, by frequently losing their *Crown* in the *Pound*, which *Premium* they now receive upon all the Money circulated in the *Fornication-Trade* at the ——— and the ———; it would be but just to make them Commissioners of this Office, with a reasonable Salary of four or five Hundred Pounds a Year, which might be subscribed for them by the trading *J—*s of this Metropolis——and they should be obliged to give their Attendance gratis at the Office.

THE *Rates* of these *authorised Whores* should be published in the Daily Papers, and

and inserted in all future *Court-Calendars*, directly after the Rates of Coaches and Chairs; and it would be necessary also to publish a List of such *Licensed-Bawdy-Houses*, as any single Man might with Impunity propagate his Species in. By these Means many Impositions in the *Venereal-way* might be avoided, and Fornication reduced to some thing of a regular System. We should then look upon your Plan of a *Preservatory* and *Reformatory* as the Means of bringing this great Work to bear.

In this light then, Sir, your Scheme is the most Beneficial to Society, of any that has been ever suggested, for as my Motto says, " Lust is the smallest Vice we own " it is not the concupiscential Part of Whoredom that is meant to be *reformed*, but the *Disorderly* part thereof, so that if it is once put under proper Regulations, the End is answered.

I intended throwing together my thoughts upon this Subject, in order to form a kind of Appendix to your "Plan of a Preservatory and Reformatory," under the Title of a "Scheme for regulating Whores and Bawds, and all those following the *Art, Mystery, or calling of Fornication*;" but being afterwards informed that many Objections might be made to your Project, I altered my first Intention, to consider this Matter in a different light.

HOWEVER I could not suppress the following Hints, which some time or other may be of service to the Community in General, and the Trading J——s of this *Metropolis* in particular.

" As the Magistrates of this City have
 " long laboured under great difficulties in
 " suppressing *Brothels, Bawdy, and Dis-*
 " *orderly Houses*, in and about this Metro-
 " polis, and since it is a Maxim in Politics

" to

“ to render those Evils, that cannot be pre-
 “ vented, of as much Utility as possible, it
 “ is prudent for the said Magistrates to
 “ draw as many Advantages as they can
 “ from these incurable Ills. With this
 “ View it will be necessary to reduce the
 “ low ones still lower, and exalt the high-
 “ ones still higher—that mean Vice may
 “ be held in Detestation, and *polite Liber-*
 “ *tinism* be the sole Object of Men’s
 “ Ambition. A Tax should be imposed
 “ (at the Q—— S——ns) upon all
 “ *Bawdy-houses* indiscriminately, by this
 “ means *low-infamous Brothels* would in-
 “ evitably be broke, whilst the *famous-*
 “ *high-ones* would be benefitted and pro-
 “ tected by it. But as many of the Keep-
 “ ers of the *more elevated* Sort might be so
 “ far blind to their own Interest, as to
 “ prove *Refractory*, and by the foolish
 “ Intention of throwing off this *imaginary*
 “ Yoke, lay themselves open to *Justice* ;
 “ it would be expedient for one or more
 “ of the trading J——s, to hire or take
 “ a

“ a Lease or Leases of such Houses as
 “ are, or may be occupied by *genteel*
 “ *Bawds*, in order to turn them out if
 “ they testify the least Signs of Disobedi-
 “ ence ; and not admit any new ones but
 “ what subscribe to the *Rules*, and agree
 “ to pay the *Imposts* charged. In case
 “ any Bawdy-house-keeper should be so
 “ indiscreet as to set up, in any House of
 “ which a J——e is not the *Landlord*, if
 “ upon Application he or she did not consent
 “ to let him take the House, over his or
 “ her Head, immediate Expulsion should
 “ ensue, without the Permission of ever
 “ setting up again in this Metropolis. All
 “ extortionary Demands should be fined
 “ in Proportion to the Offence ; and no
 “ Bagnio Bill to exceed ten Guineas for
 “ a Night's Lodging, *Girl* inclusive, nor
 “ above eight Bottles more charg'd than
 “ drank. No Pimps to be allowed above
 “ half a Crown in the Pound ; or above
 “ Fifty Guineas for debauching any Girl
 “ upwards of Fourteen, provided she be
 “ not

“ not an *Heirefs*, or promised in Marriage
 “ to an advantageous Party. As these
 “ Regulations may in some measure be
 “ prejudicial to the chirurgical Part of this
 “ Metropolis, in order to counter-balance
 “ their venereal Losses this way, Mrs.
 “ *Philips*, and all her Machines should
 “ be expelled, and no Bawdy-house that
 “ permitted the Use of them, should be
 “ licensed at the next Q—— S——. A
 “ Provision for this very worthy Member
 “ of Society (Mrs. *Philips*) who has pre-
 “ vented so many *Claps*——as well as
 “ *Children*——being got, and by that
 “ means preserved the Health of *Rakes*——
 “ and *half* the Reputation of *Demy-Reps*,
 “ is equitable and just; and as she by her
 “ Experience and Knowledge of Life,
 “ must be a very fit Person for a Matron
 “ to any Institution whatever, but more
 “ particularly a *Preservatory* for *innocent*-
 “ *Girls*, a lucky Opportunity offers for
 “ her filling that *Employ* with the greatest
 “ Success. (If a proper Number of Ma-
 “ trons,

“ trons, so duly qualified, could be pro-
 “ cured, as well for the *Preservatory* as
 “ *Reformatory*, we might very justly be-
 “ lieve, that all the Advantages they pro-
 “ mise to Society, would necessarily fol-
 “ low from their Institution.) Kept Mi-
 “ stresses should not be allowed to *beat the*
 “ *rounds* in their *own Equipages*,—mono-
 “ polize *Culls* at *French Wine-houses* or
 “ *Bagnios*——or breed any Disturbance
 “ within the Parish of St. Paul’s Covent-
 “ Garden, after three in the Morning. To
 “ prevent the Trade being distressed by Sharp-
 “ ers, or what are generally understood by
 “ the *Technical-name* of *Bilks*; any Person
 “ who should purchase a *Lot*, and not
 “ pay for it, within three Days after Pos-
 “ session, should be liable to forfeit dou-
 “ ble the Sum agreed for—and for a se-
 “ cond Offence not be *allowed* to shew his
 “ Face, with *Decency*, in any *Bawdy-*
 “ *house* whatsoever. These, and such like
 “ Regulations might be a Means of fixing
 “ the true *Criterion* of *Fornication*, divest-
 ing

“ ing it of all *Irregularities and Improprieties*;
 “ irradicating *disorderly Copulation*, exter-
 “ minating *low, mean, and infamous Baw-*
 “ *dy-houses*, and establishing the *genteel*,
 “ *elevated, and truly famous Brothels*, in
 “ all their *meridian Lustre*.”

BUT it is Time to quit this visionary Land, for the Introduction of which I can claim nothing but the Indulgence due to the extraordinary Flights of Authors, whose expanding Ideas cannot sometimes be bridled by the most cogent Reasoning.

To resume, then, the clue of this Epistle; I am glad to find, Sir, that however we may differ in our *Consequenees*, our *Positions*, upon the least Scrutiny will, in many Respects, appear pretty near the same.

You are not ignorant that the poor *
 pretty Girls are cleaned and cloathed by
 Bawds,

* *Vide Page 16 of the Plan for a Preservatory and Reformatory.*

Bawds, for their wicked Purposes—that they are the Prey of the Bawd and the Debauchee.

It requires but little Knowledge of Mankind to be convinced that all our Actions center in Self-Interest, and that therefore the Bawd must trepan these Girls through a mercenary View, and that it must be the Debauchee who recompences her. If so, will it not plainly appear, that the more opulent the Bawd, and the richer the Debauchee, the more fatal and the more general are their Snares?

I SHOULD be glad to be informed, Sir, for it is at present a matter of Doubt with me, whether or no *Bailiffs* and their *Followers* have any particular Licence or Privilege for keeping public, notorious Bawdy-Houses. I am assured by some Persons, who have

have the best Intelligence of these Matters, that there are near forty *Brothels* kept by such Persons, in and near the Parishes of *St. Paul's Covent-Garden*, *St. Martin's*, and *St. James's*; where, if a Tradesman, or other reputable Person, chance to stroll, in his Cups, he is made the greatest Property of. Whether he drinks or no, a Bowl is immediately circulated, and if he chance to sleep till Morning, as perhaps he may, he finds a Reckoning of four or five Pounds to discharge; tho' not a tenth Part of the Liquor charged, even at their extortionary Price, has been drank. If he does not pay it he will be arrested and exposed; therefore he prefers the Imposition, and the Rogues triumph.

THESE Miscreants are constantly enquiring after pretty Girls that are a little in Debt, and if they can contrive to buy up their Notes, perhaps at a Crown in the Pound, they arrest them, detain them at their House in quality of a Spunging-house, and make their Property of them. The Debt, perhaps of two or three Pounds, still remains if they were

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to

to earn them a hundred Pounds ; so that they are never after out of their Clutches, till they are rotten and unfit for Service, when they are cast into the Streets, and become real Objects for a *Reformatory*.

THE melancholly End of a beautiful young Gentlewoman, who was lately trepanned into one of these Houses, not many Miles from *James-street* in the *Hay-market*, has given me such a Detestation of them, that it was with the greatest Mortification, Sir, I learnt that the Peace-Officers, in their late Search in *Hedge-lane*, never once thought of *James-street*, so near and so notorious to every Passenger.

This unhappy Girl had the Misfortune to be debauched by an Officer quartered at *Guildford*, where her Parents lived in Reputation, and being an only Child, had spared no Pains in cultivating those Advantages Nature had bestowed on her. The Affair being, as usual in Country Places, made the Talk of the Town, Shame and Remorse drove her from her Father's

Father's House, who, overwhelmed with Grief, did not long survive her Loss. She came to *London* in Company with a Girl under the like Circumstances, in Hopes, by changing the Scene, to bury in Oblivion her past Misfortune.—But, alas! instead of a genteel Service, which she was recommended to, she too late found herself in the Hands of a notorious Bawd: If she bewailed her Misfortune or mentioned returning to her unhappy Parents, Writs and a Goal were the threatned Consequences. — The Fear of which obliged her to prostitute herself to every Customer, who, from the Beauty of her Person, were too numerous. — The Distemper she caught these infernal Wretches would not suffer to be properly cured, till by Loads of Mercury they ended her Life and their own Gains, in the 18th Year of her Age, and third Year of her Bondage.

THESE, Sir, are the Nests of Debauchery and Villainy, which, whether a Magdalen - Charity takes Place, or no, should be immediately exterminated. If low Bawdy-houses are Nuisances to So-

ciety, the more elevated ones are its Bane.

IMAGE to yourself, Sir, a Son—Heir of all your Hopes and Fortune—perhaps still a Stripling—decoyed into one of these Houses, where all the Allurements of a Harlot are practised to Perfection—Beauty—Dress—and Wine—excite him to Concupiscence.—A Stranger to the Joys of *Venus*—their Force to him is irresistible: All her Demands are agreed to. Unable to fulfil them, what Course may he not take? His Health destroyed—his Life, every Way, endangered—If he falls not by the ill-administered Medicine, what can secure him from a more ignominious Death?—A Failure of Supply converts his Mistress to his first Accuser! A Perseverance in his illegal Practices, renders his Fate inevitable!

OR paint to yourself the Agonies of a Parent, whose Daughter is decoyed by the base Treachery of an execrable Bawd, who feeling the Pulse of her Passions, promises the utmost Gratification of such

as

as predominate. View her in the Arms of some vile Letcher, whose impotent Desires impregnate but Disease. See her languishing under all the Inveteracy of venereal Complaints—still at the Nod of every Wretch that can command the Price fixed upon her by her Sovereign. Now unable to support the Inordinacy of her Disorder, and no longer fit for servile Prostitution, she is expelled the Seminary. Infamy, Misery, and Maladies surround her!

THESE, Sir, are Pictures after real Life, and whoever takes the Trouble of comparing them with the Originals, will find there is not a Feature *outrée*.

It is plain, Sir, you were not unapprised that you may meet, in low Bawdy-houses, Girls of a genteel Education, “ * who may perhaps have some Relations left, to whom their own Sense of Shame, joined to the Harshness of such Relations, forbid them to apply for Relief;” but you could never imagine

* Vide p. 17, of the Plan.

that

that these Girls could be seduced by the Keepers of such low Bawdy-houses; the Gentility of their Education, and their Notions of Life must have secured them from any such mean Attacks. If they were debauched, as most likely they might, before they became common, their Beauty (for without it they would not have been debauched) and Appearance would always entitle them to a Retreat in the most elevated Brothels: So that we must look upon these, after the first Slip, as the direct Passport to Infamy.

If such genteel Girls, who have Sense of Shame sufficient to deter them from applying to their Relations for Relief, are to be met with in searching low Bawdy-houses, is it prudent to advertise their Names and Ages in the public Papers, since the same Sense of Shame that will prevent their Application to their Relations, will deter them from applying to you, Sir, to be indentured as Apprentices to the *Reformatory*? Or if they should be taken in Custody and brought before you, can it be supposed that they will give a
true

true Account of their Names, Ages, &c? No—and I believe it was owing to the Apprehension of a similar Publication, that the List which appeared in the *Public-Advertiser* was so extremely erroneous; for I am informed by a Person, who has taken some Pains to enquire, that not ten of those Names were other than fictitious—their Ages mostly misrepresented, as well as the Times of their being debauched.

I should be curious to know, Sir, what End can be answered by any such Publications, without it be to fill up the *Vacuum* that there may otherwise be in the Paper—or to render yourself popular? If indeed you were to publish with it a List of the Names of those Persons who *really* debauched these Girls, this might be a Means of having such Men held in Detestation, at least by the *honest* Part of Mankind, and deterring others from rendering themselves equally scandalous; or if the Conditions of Concealment of these Male Names, were the Subscription of a Sum sufficient for the support of those Girls they

they had debauched ; this might facilitate the raising a Capital for carrying your Plan into Execution. Nor need you apprehend this to be superfluous, notwithstanding the generous Contributions for establishing this Charity, which I doubt not will be effected ; but I fear the future support thereof will remain a Burthen upon the Public, as most of our Charities are, by the Allowance of Parliament.

It may not perhaps, in this place, be improper to consider, what the Annual Sum requisite for supporting this Plan would Amount to.

As it is computed that there are near a Million of Inhabitants in this Metropolis, it's Suburbs, and Adjacencies ; as near half these are Females, and, to be sure, five-eighths of these Females are at the Age of Womanhood, or *debauchable* (according to your List lately Published) let us enquire how many of these may fairly come under the Denomination of Prostitutes.

If

If I were to judge, by my own Experience, and that of my Acquaintance, I might venture to pronounce, that amongst every five Woman there is (*at least*) one Whore; as I can with the greatest Veracity assert, that among all my Female Acquaintance, I could never think of any five, but what I either had, or could have, lain with one of them. Nor will the Assertion appear to have any foundation in Vanity, to every Man who has a general unlimited Acquaintance with the Sex.

ACCORDING to this calculation then, there are Sixty-two Thousand, Five Hundred Whores, including, *Women of Fashion who Intrigue, Demi-reps, Good-natured-Girls, and Kept Mistresses*, who become common by Rotation.

If we pursue the same Calculation throughout *England*, allowing the Total number of Inhabitants to be Eight Millions, we then find Five Hundred Thousand Whores, including as before, the Four
F First

First Classes of the List*. But allowing a proper deduction for the *Modest* parts of *England*, we may, I think, safely put them down at *Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand*.

Thus, then, if this Charity is intended actually to suppress Fornication and its fatal Consequences, and therefore to include *genteel* as well as *ungenteel* Whores; for without this it is only lopping off the *rotten, withered* Branches, and letting the Tree extend its Growth with greater Vigour. I say, Sir, if Whores of all Ranks are to be included, we are to look upon this as an Institution for, *Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand* Prostitutes.

AMONGST this Number, there is, to be sure a Fourth, who by Distempers unattended to, and other Accidents, are unfit for any Work whatever; who will be an absolute Charge, without anywise procuring a Supply for the same. Here then are about an Hundred and Twelve Thousand Women, to be nursed and maintained

* Vide page 8.

maintained at the Expence (*I suppose*) of the Public, who, at only ten Pounds a Year each (which I take to be the least Sum that can be imagined) will create an Expence of One Million, One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Pounds per Annum.

THERE will still remain (beside these Hundred and Twelve Thousand unable to perform any Work whatever, and therefore an absolute and certain Burthen upon the Charity) Three Hundred and Thirty-eight Thousand who are able, and we will go so far as even to suppose, willing to work. Let us consider how these are to obtain the Means of maintaining themselves. A Public Laundry seems to be the grand Object of Support for this Charity.

WITHOUT entering into any speculative Calculation of how many Families give out their Linnen to wash, and how many have it done at home : We will suppose that all the Families within any convenient Distance absolutely employ the *Reformatory*, can it be supposed that washing the

Linnen of those Families can find Work for such a Number of Hands, or, what is more material, procure them the Means of Subsistence? Beside, if all the Linnen washed out were done here, what would become of the poor Washerwomen? would it not be necessary to immediately establish an Infirmary or Hospital for them?

IN this charitable Age, every thing that may furnish a Hint for a new Institution is looked upon in the most favourable Light; for that Reason I doubt not but this Query may be turned to some Advantage, by any *Charity-Monger*, who has Popularity enough to set a Scheme a-float that carries with it the least shadow of benefit to Society, or even Individuals.

BUT to resume, I know, Sir, you will tell me that all these Woman are not intended to be employ'd in the Laundry*; that

* Though if the Plan you have Published were to take Place, and the Deserted Orphans who are to compose the *Preservatory*, were to be united with the *Reformatory*, many more Hands than these must necessarily be engaged therein

that the strong robust Wenches who were trained to Labour, are those only who are to be confined to the Wash-Tub; and that those of a more delicate Frame are to be employed in Mantua-Making, Plain-Work, &c.

EITHER these reformed Mantua-Makers and Semstresses, must not have sufficient Employment for their Support, or they must starve the greatest Part (*if not all*) the *Unreformed* Parts of their Trades, who have already the utmost difficulty to Live, and many of them have recourse to private Fornication for *Food*. If the *Reformatory* thrives these are ruined; and most of them having already attained, a pretty extensive Knowledge of the Others original Trade, composing a great part of the Sum Total of *Good-natured Girls*; we may easily conclude that they will exchange Vocations, and even become proper Objects for the *Reformatory*.

THUS then it evidently appears that the Work done in the *Reformatory*, can never produce a sufficient supply for it's Support,
or

or even of such Members as are able to gain a subsistence by Labour; or that if it should, it would necessarily create a much greater number of Objects of Charity, not only to be admitted there, but to be provided for by some other Institution. So that we may necessarily conclude that the *Reformatory* must be productive, either directly or consequentially of an equivalent to the total Number of Prostitutes admitted; which according to the former Calculations, will amount to *Four Millions, Five Hundred Thousand Pounds*, per Annum.

I shall not pretend to enquire whether it be Political at this Time (when there is such a Necessity of supporting the War with Vigour, as well in *Europe*, as *America*, and assisting his *Prussian* Majesty, to the utmost of our Abilities) to create a new Expence of such Importance; as it is my present intent to prove only that this Scheme, though well intended, and which properly regulated might be productive of many Advantages to Society, must if prosecuted in the Manner you have framed, Sir, and in some measure executed,

executed, not only prove abortive in every Part, but 'greatly' tend to the *Promotion of Vice*, and the *Encouragement of Whoredom*. The witling may then with great truth urge, "What has a Woman, who has no Anxiety about her Reputation, to fear by Incontinence? If she gets *Clapped* or *Poxed*, she goes into the *Lock*, if *with Child*, into *Lying-in-Hospital*, and if the Child lives that is transmitted to the *Foundling*: so that if we include *Taverns* and *Bagnios*, here are compleat Provisions for *Fornication*, and almost all it's various consequences. Yet there was one Institution more requisite, to prevent even a distant dread of Female satiety and want, that was an *ASYLUM* for worn out *Whores* * and no Time could be so proper for this as the Present, that there is so much reason to expect a constant supply of *fresh Goods* at Market, as such great care has been taken to prevent a *Monopoly*, in the clandestine way of *Matrimony*.

* Many of the Whores that were taken into Custody are upwards of *Thirty*, and as much debilitated through Debauchery, as Women who have lived a sober Life, at double that Age.

F I N I S.

ascended, and only prove abortive in every form, but greatly tend to the promotion of vice, and the encouragement of Whoredoms. The wisdom may then with great truth urge, "What has a Woman, who has no Anxiety about her Reputation, to fear by Incontinence? If she gets Clapped or Pox, she goes into the Lock, if with Child, into King's-Hospital, and if the Child lives that is transmitted to the Foundling: so that if we include Pains and Expenses, there are complete Provisions for the Whore, and almost all its various consequences. Yet there was one Institution more requisite, to prevent even a distant dread of Pains, misery and want, that was not made for women, but which could be so proper for this purpose, that there is to much reason to expect a constant supply of good Girls at Market, as that great care has been taken to prevent a Monopoly in the cheap way of Matrimony.



"Many of the Whores that were taken into Custody are now at Liberty, and as much desired through Debauchery, as Women who have had a laborious, as double that age."

F I W I S